

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01 IO-14 ISO-00

SCI-06 INT-08 GSA-02 CEQ-02 EPA-04 EB-11 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 FEA-02 DRC-01

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R 241713Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4992

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EMIB, AG, SP, MX, YO, TU, CA, IT

SUBJECT MERCURY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

REF: ALGIERS 1092

1. EMBOFF MAY 24 QUERIED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REGARDING RECENT MERCURY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS (REFTEL). SOURCE STATED THAT MINISTRY LEARNED OF MEETING ONLY THROUGH CABLE FROM ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS BASED ON MAY 14 REPORT IN ALGIERS DAILY "EL MOUDJAHID" AND WAS NOT EVEN INFORMED AS TO WHO REPRESENTED GOI AT MEETING. MFA RECEIVED FOLLOW-UP CABLE FROM ALGIERS REPORTING DECISIONS REACHED ON MARKETING OF MERCURY, WHICH, MINISTRY SOURCE NOTED, ARE INCONSISTENT WITH GOI POLICY IN FAVOR OF UNHINDERED ACCESS
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TO RAW MATERIALS AND REASONABLE RAW MATERIAL PRICES.

2. SOURCE STATED THAT MFA PRESENTLY ADDRESSING A NOTE TO MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STATE HOLDINGS WHICH REQUESTS FURTHER INFO ON WHAT TRANSPIRED AT ALGIERS MEETING AND POINTEDLY REMINDS THE TWO MINISTRIES OF WELL-ESTABLISHED GOI POLICY ON RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY.

3. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES THAT ITALIANS WERE REPRESENTED AT ALGIERS MEETING BY MARIO EINAUDI, PRESIDENT OF EGAM (STATE HOLDING COMPANY IN MINING AND METALLURGICAL SECTOR, WHICH RECENTLY ASSUMED CONTROL OF ITALY'S TWO MERCURY PRODUCING COMPANIES, MONTE AMIATA AND STABILIMENTO MINERARIO DEL SIELE) AND ERMANNO BRANCONI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MONTE AMIATA.

4. COMMENT: SAGGING WORLD DEMAND HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED ITALY'S MERCURY METAL PRODUCTION IN RECENT YEARS (1971 OUTPUT: 1,469 METRIC TONS, 1972: 1,441 MT, 1973: 1,127 MT), AND TRIGGERED A SHARP INCREASE IN STOCKPILES. EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT YEAR-END STOCKPILES FROM 1971 TO 1973 MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM 1,500 MET TO 3,300 MT. IT IS NOT BE COINCIDENCE THAT ITALY'S TWO MERCURY PRODUCING COMPANIES RECENTLY PASSED FROM PRIVATE TO GOVERNMENT HANDS. EGAM, THE MINERAL SECTOR STATE HOLDING COMPANY WHICH HAS LATELY BEEN ABSORBING A GROWING NUMBER OF CHRONICALLY AILING MINING AND METALLURGICAL FIRMS, ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE TWO COMPANIES LAST FEBRUARY. VOLPE

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